(in million tonnes)

State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Andhra Pradesh	25.21	25.65	26.77
Assam	1.20	1.19	0.82
Bihar	73.27	72.41	74.53
Madhya Pradesh	72.86	75.12	79.76
Maharashtra	20.45	21.00	22.82
Orissa	24.30	27.32	32.70
Uttar Pradesh	12.14	13.70	14.80
West Bengal	16.61	17.34	17.93
Total	246.04	253.73	270.13

(c) According to the statistics available in the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the total quantity of various types of coal imported into the country during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was as follows :-

(Data provisional)

Year	Quantity (in million tonnes)	Value (in Rs. Crores)
1993-94	7.51	1463.30
1994-95	11.39	2224.21
1995-96	13.23	3010.70

(d) While steel plants are importing low ash coking coal mainly to bridge the gap between demand and supply and to improve the quality of overall blend for technological reasons, others are generally importing either low ash coking coal or special types of coals like anthractie. Soem cement plants and power houses located near the ports are also importing non-coking coal.

(e) Steps are underway to augment indigenous production of coking coal as well as non-coking coals to the extent practicable. These include the following :

(i) Opening up of new mines and increasing efficiency and productivity in existing mines by modernisation, application of new technologies and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities;

(ii) The capital base of Coal India Limited has been restructured to enable it to raise from the capital market additional financial resources which are required to finance new coal production projects;

(iii) Coordination on continuous basis with the Railways is maintained to remove transportation bottlenecks in such coalfields areas which have potential for enhanced production;

(iv) Private sector companies engaged in production of iron and steel, cement and generation of power have been permitted to take up coal mining for their own use. This is expected to increase domestic coal production;

(v) Modification of existing washeries as well as construction of new washeries are being taken up to increase the availability of washed coking coal.

Coal in Maharashtra

*495. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of coal produced in the coal mines of Maharashtra during each of the last two years;

(b) the amount of royalty paid on Coal to the Government of Maharashtra during the said period;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any Coal based industry in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Coal production from the coal mines located in Maharashtra in the last two years was as under :

Year	(million tonnes)
1994-95	21.00
1995-96	22.82

(b) The royalty on coal paid to the Government of Maharashtra during 1994-95 and 1995-96 was as under :

Year	(Rs. Crores)
1994-95	159.70
1995-96	217.90

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

Closed Coal Mines

*496. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are many coal mines in the country in public sector which are lying closed;

(b) if so, the number of coal mines closed down during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the closure of these mines and impact of the closure on production of coal;

(d) whether the Union Government has decided recently to hand over these mines to the State Government and start production in them;

(e) if so, the names of the States to which these closed mines are likely to be handed over in the first phase; and

(f) the time by which the said decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information furnished by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL), the State-wise details of mines closed down by CIL and SCCL during the years 1993-96 and till August in 1996-97 are as under:

State	CIL	SCCL
West Bengal	8	-
Bihar	9	-
Madhya Pradesh	8	-
Maharashtra	2	-
Total	27	-
Andhra Pradesh	-	4
Grand Total		31 Mines

(c) The coal mines were closed on grounds of exhaustion of reserves, inundation safety as well as adverse economic and techno-economic conditions. There has been no significant negative impact of the closure on coal production.

(d) No decision has been taken to handover any of the mines closed by CIL & SCCL during the aforesaid period.

(e) and (f). Do not arise in view of (d) above.

Sale of Subsidised Cotton Yarn

*497. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide subsidised cotton yarn to handloom weavers in the Country through State Handloom Development Corporation;

(b) if not, the other arrangements made to provide this yarn to handloom weavers;

(c) whether complaints have been received regarding sale of subsidised yarn to powerloom sector instead of handloom sector;

(d) if so, the number of such complaints received during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the benefit of subsidised cotton yarn must reach to the handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). During the year 1994-95, the Government of India announced the Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme for supply of 20 million kgs. of Cotton Hank Yarn to the handloom weaver at a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per Kg. The scheme was implemented through the Handloom Apex/Regional/Primary Cooperative Societies; State Handloom Development Corporations and National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC). This scheme was extended for the year 1995-96 also with a target of 20 million kgs., however, with an enhanced rate of subsidy of Rs. 20/- per kg. The Government of India has also been operating the Mill Gate Price Scheme for supply of Cotton Yarn to the handloom weavers at Mill Gate Prices through National Handloom Development Corporation.

(c) and (d). Government has not received any complaint regarding sale of this subsidised yarn to powerloom sector.

(e) By making available subsidised cotton yarn in adequate quantity, through various Handloom agencies, and strict monitoring over the price situation, the Government has